



PROPOSED RULES TO ADOPT NEW EDUCATION STATEWIDE ASSESSMENT

Rules for New Assessment. On August 6, 2015, the State Board of Education directed the Department of Education to present proposed rules for adoption of the recommendation of the Iowa Assessment Task Force to require the Smarter Balanced Assessments as “the new statewide assessment of student progress on a set of core academic indicators in mathematics and reading.” On September 17, 2015, Board members reviewed [proposed State administrative rules](#) that will require the Smarter Balanced Assessments for the 2016-2017 school year. The administrative rules process includes public hearings, review by a legislative committee, and will take at least 108 days. The proposed rules will be published in the [Iowa Administrative Bulletin](#). The Iowa Department of Education will hold a public hearing on the proposed rules on November 3 and will accept written comments.

Background. During the 2013 Legislative Session, [HF 215](#) (Education Reform Appropriations Act) created the Iowa Assessment Task Force. The Task Force was charged with recommending an assessment for implementation by the 2016-2017 school year that meets the following criteria:

- Aligns with the Iowa Core standards;
- Accurately describes student achievement and growth for the purposes of accountability;
- Provides valid, reliable, and fair measures of student progress toward college or career readiness;
- Must have been piloted in Iowa schools.

Report. The Task Force completed a [report](#) in December 2014. In addition to the recommendation to adopt the Smarter Balanced Assessments, the Task Force made five other recommendations, including that the General Assembly create a plan for moving to statewide online administration of assessments and that the Task Force be reconvened as soon as the [new science standards are approved](#) and new assessments are available for review. As of September 17, 2015, a new science assessment has not yet been recommended.

Smarter Balanced Assessments. The Smarter Balanced assessments were developed by a consortium of states and consist of a system that includes tests for mandatory accountability purposes, as well as interim tests for classroom use. The assessments are aligned to the Iowa Core standards and are designed to measure higher-order thinking skills. The assessments also will be computer adaptive to present an individually tailored set of questions to students based on their responses.

Additional Information. For more information, refer to the [Smarter Balanced website](#) and the [Iowa Assessment Task Force report](#). For more information on the administrative rules process, refer to [this flowchart](#) and the [General Assembly website](#).

STAFF CONTACT: Tim Crellin (515-725-1286) timothy.crellin@legis.iowa.gov